

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CPR-01

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R 290234Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3370

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

UNCLAS USUN 5426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BB

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMBASSADOR WALDRON-RAMSEY'S
(BARBADOS) DOG

1. A DIPLOMATIC PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN VILLAGE
OF PELHAM, NY INVOLVING AMBASSADOR WALDRON-RAMSEY, HIS
DOG AND GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENRY OF VILLAGE.
2. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF POLICE, DOG HAS BITTEN A NUMBER
OF INDIVIDUALS FROM MAY 1972 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1975. AS
A RESULT, ON OCTOBER 9, 1975, MAYOR JOHN JOHNSON WROTE
TO AMBASSADOR WALDRON-RAMSEY AND REQUESTED THAT HIS DOG
BE KEPT ON A LEASH WHENEVER HE WAS OUTSIDE AMBASSADOR'S
PROPERTY. MAYOR JOHNSON WARNED THAT IF POLICE SAW DOG
OFF PREMISES AND NOT ON A LEASH AND UNDER PROPER CONTROL,
THEY WOULD SHOOT DOG IN INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY.
AMBASSADOR WALDRON-RAMSEY RESPONDED ON OCTOBER 14 WITH
A LETTER WHICH WE FEEL WAS NOT RESPONSIVE TO PROBLEM.
3. IN HIS LETTER TO MAYOR JOHNSON, AMBASSADOR WALDRON-
RAMSEY REFERRED TO THREAT TO SHOOT DOG IN FOLLOWING TERMS,
"THE MIND BOGGLES, MR. MAYOR, TO CONTEMPLATE
THE TRAGIC, CALAMITOUS CONSEQUENCES, OF A PERSONAL
NATURE, WHICH WOULD NATURALLY FLOW FROM ANY SUCH
ABERRATION. AND THIS CONSIDERATION BESPEAKS NOTHING
OF THE POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES." HE SAID FURTHER
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THAT MAYOR'S LETTER WAS "HARDLY ONE THAT I WOULD EXPECT TO

GO FORTH WITH THE SIGNATURE OF A 'MAYOR'. BUT THEN,
WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY OR A WORLD FULL OF SURPRISES."
HOWEVER, IN HIS LETTER, AMBASSADOR WALDRON-RAMSEY PRAISES PELHAM
POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CLOSES HIS LETTER STATING "IN ANY CASE, I
CONTINUE TO REPOSE CONFIDENCE IN BASIC AND SOLID GOOD SENSE OF
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AT WASHINGTON."

4. SITUATION ASSUMED MORE SERIOUS PROPORTIONS WHEN ON
OCTOBER 25, EDITORIAL WAS CARRIED IN WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK
REPORTER DESPATCH TITLED "UNDIPLOMATIC DOG."
EDITORIAL STATED: "WE'D HATE TO THINK OF PELHAM VS.
BARBADOS WINDING UP BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL OR UN TROOPS SETTING
UP A BUFFER ZONE ON WOLF'S LANE. AT RISK OF TOUCHING ON
DIPLOMATIC DIGNITY MAY WE SUGGEST THAT AMBASSADOR UNILATERALLY
CALL OFF HIS DOG?"
THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY WHICH LAID
GROUNDWORK FOR STORIES IN NEW YORK TIMES, POST AND DAILY NEWS,
AS WELL AS TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE.

5. WE WILL DISCUSS WITH AMB WALDRON-RAMSEY AND ADVISE.

6. NEWS CLIPPINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE HAVE BEEN POUCHED
AMERICAN EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN AND DEPARTMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, DOGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN05426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750374-0334
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751012/aaaaakoi.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 NOV 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMBASSADOR WALDRON-RAMSEY'S (BARBADOS) DOG
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, BB, US, UN, (WALDRON-RAMSEY, WALDO E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006